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localizing information, and the root directory contains the highest level TOC file. The audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

In the Claims

Claims 10-17 are amended herein, as marked up in Appendix A. Please add new claims 18-29. Currently pending claims 10-29 for consideration by the Examiner are as follows:

10. (AMENDED) A method, comprising the steps of:

providing a unitary storage medium;

storing audio-centered information on the unitary storage medium;

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storing on the unitary storage medium, a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a highest level TOC file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items; and

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storing on the unitary storage medium, a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information, the root directory containing the highest level TOC file, wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

11. (AMENDED) The method of claim 10, wherein the root directory contains lower level directories that each pertain to a standardized audio format, thereby providing further access to

the audio information at respective different levels.

12. (AMENDED) The method of claim 10, wherein the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a different respective standardized audio format.

13. (AMENDED) The method of claim 12, wherein the number of Sub-TOC file directories is exactly equal to 2.

14. (AMENDED) The method of claim 12, wherein the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-channel audio format.

15. (AMENDED) A unitary storage medium, comprising:

audio-centered information;

a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a highest level TOC file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items; and

a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information, the root directory containing the highest level TOC file, wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

16. (AMENDED) The unitary storage medium of claim 15, wherein:

the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file;

each directory uses a different respective standardized audio format; and

the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-channel audio format.

17. (AMENDED) A reader for an optical disc, comprising:

optical reading means for producing a read signal from the optical disc;

disc driving means for moving the optical read means with respect to a track on the optical disc; and

access means for controlling the disc drive means for accessing information stored on the optical disc using access mechanisms of the disc, the access mechanisms including:

a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium,

a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information such that the root directory contains the highest level TOC file, a highest level TOC file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items,

wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

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18. (NEW) A method, comprising:

providing a unitary storage medium;
storing audio information on the unitary storage medium; and
forming a file-based access mechanism on the unitary storage medium, wherein the file-based access mechanism includes a directory-based Table-of-Contents (TOC) for storing and accessing the audio information.

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19. (NEW) The method of claim 18, wherein the file-based access mechanism includes a root directory.

20. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein the root directory contains lower level directories that each pertain to a standardized audio format, thereby providing further access to the audio information at respective different levels.

21. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a different respective standardized audio format.

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22. (NEW) The method of claim 19, further comprising forming a TOC mechanism on the unitary storage medium, wherein the TOC mechanism includes a data-based TOC for storing and accessing the audio information.

23. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein the TOC mechanism and the file-based access mechanism are stored on a single serial track of the unitary storage medium.

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24. (NEW) A unitary storage medium on which audio information is stored, said unitary medium comprising a file-based access mechanism that includes a directory-based Table-of-Contents (TOC) for storing and accessing the audio information.

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25. (NEW) The unitary storage medium of claim 24, wherein the file-based access mechanism includes a root directory.

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26. (NEW) The unitary storage medium of claim 25, wherein the root directory contains lower level directories that each pertain to a standardized audio format, thereby providing further access to the audio information at respective different levels.

27. (NEW) The unitary storage medium of claim 25, wherein the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a different respective standardized audio format.

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28. (NEW) The unitary storage medium of claim 25, further comprising a TOC mechanism that includes a data-based TOC for storing and accessing the audio information.

29. (NEW) The unitary storage medium of claim 28, wherein the TOC mechanism and the file-